

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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TO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 044069

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CD, US

SUBJECT: CHADIAN AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH ASSISTANT
SECRETARY MOOSE, SEPTEMBER 13

REFS: (A) NDJAMENA 537 (NOTAL), (B) 77 STATE 288826 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: CHADIAN AMBASSADOR CALLED ON ASSISTANT
SECRETARY MOOSE TO PRESENT TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT
MALLOUM ASKING ALL FRIENDLY COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE CHAD
MILITARY ASSISTANCE. MOOSE TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT US CONTIN-
UED TO SEE THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFERS AS BEST SOURCE OF
MILITARY ASSISTANCE. DEPARTMENT WAS ALSO CONSULTING WITH
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CONGRESS ON POSSIBILITY OF OTHER KINDS OF ASSISTANCE FOR
CHAD, BUT OUTLOOK WAS NOT GOOD. HOWEVER, US WISHED TO
SUPPORT CHAD'S EFFORTS AT NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AND WAS
LOOKING FOR MEANS TO DO SO. US WOULD ALSO SUPPORT CHAD'S
REQUEST TO BRING MATTER BEFORE UN SECURITY COUNCIL. END
SUMMARY.

2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE MET WITH CHADIAN AMBASSADOR PIERRE TOURA GABA ON FEBRUARY 13 TO DISCUSS SUBJECT OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD. AF/W DIRECTOR AND CHAD DESK OFFICER ATTENDED.

3. AMBASSADOR TOURA GABA BEGAN BY REVIEWING THE SERIES OF MILITARY SETBACKS LAST SUMMER WHICH HAD BROUGHT VICE PRESIDENT DJIME TO THE US IN SEARCH OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE. EVEN AT THAT TIME, CHAD HAD BELIEVED THAT THE FIGHTING COULD BE BROUGHT TO AN END THROUGH OAU MEDIATION. TOURA GABA SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY APPRECIATED THE EFFORTS OF OAU CHAIRMAN BONGO AND OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES TO FIND A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. HOWEVER, LIBYA HAD FAILED TO COOPERATE WITH THE OAU SUBCOMMITTEES SET UP TO SETTLE THE QUESTION AND HAD SCORNEO OTHER EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE. IN LIGHT OF THE OAU'S FRUSTRATED ATTEMPTS AND OPEN LIBYAN SUPPORT IN THIS LATEST REBEL OFFENSIVE, CHAD HAD BEEN FORCED TO TURN TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL.

4. WHILE THE CASE WAS BEING MADE BEFORE THE UNSC, THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY WOULD NEED MILITARY SUPPORT. HE SAID THAT THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT WAS TO PRESENT THE TEXT OF AN ADDRESS MADE BY PRESIDENT MALLOUM TO THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN NDJAMENA FEBRUARY 8 (REF A). IN THE MESSAGE MALLOUM CALLS UPON ALL FRIENDLY COUNTRIES TO HELP CHAD WITH SIGNIFICANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE. TOURA
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GABA SAID THAT HE REALIZED THE CONSTRAINTS ON US ASSISTANCE REQUIRING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL, YET, GIVEN THE SERIOUSNESS OF CHAD'S POSITION, HE WISHED TO KNOW IF THERE WERE THEN NOT SOME EXTRALEGAL MEANS OF HELPING CHAD. WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO NIGER AND NIGERIA, TOURA GABA SAID THAT IF LIBYA SUCCEEDED IN DETACHING A PORTION OF CHAD, IT WOULD HAVE A SERIOUS IMPACT ON ITS NEIGHBORS.

5. MOOSE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE US WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH THE DETERIORATING MILITARY SITUATION IN HIS COUNTRY AND THAT CHAD HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BY THE SECRETARY AND FRENCH FON MIN DE GUIRINGAUD OVER THE WEEK-END IN NEW YORK. MOOSE SAID THAT THERE WAS NO NEED TO REPEAT THE LITANY OF PROBLEMS THE US FACED IN PROVIDING MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD. ARMS TRANSFERS FROM IRAN REMAINED THE BEST REMAINING PROSPECT FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AND THE US HAD URGED GOI TO BE FORTHCOMING. MOOSE SAID THAT THE US WAS EXPLORING "ONE MORE WAY" OF POSSIBLY ASSISTING CHAD, HOWEVER, EVEN IF THE US COULD DO SOMETHING, IT WOULD NOT BE ON A MAJOR SCALE OR WITH THE HEAVY WEAPONS CHAD HAD IN MIND. (FYI: REFERENCE HERE IS TO SOUNDINGS IN CONGRESS REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF A ONE TIME GRANT OF

SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE. END FYI).

6. WHEN QUERIED ON CHADIAN APPROACHES TO IRAN, TOURA GABA SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING US ADVICE TO SEND A DELEGATION, HOWEVER, CHAD WAS DOUBTFUL IF IRAN WOULD RESPOND FAVORABLY. HE EXPLAINED THAT CHAD HAD ALREADY MADE ITS NEEDS KNOWN TO IRAN (REF B) AND THAT CHADIAN

FON MIN KAMOUQUE HAD BRIEFED IRANIAN COUNTERPART KHALATBARI IN PARIS LAST NOVEMBER ON CHAD'S DELICATE FINANCIAL SITUATION; IRAN HAD NO NEED TO STUDY THE QUESTION FURTHER. TOURA GABA SAID THAT CHAD WAS WILLING TO KNOCK ON ALL DOORS, BUT THAT IT WANTED MODEST ASSURANCE THAT SOME DOORS MIGHT OPEN. IN REGARD TO IRAN, CHAD DID
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NOT HAVE SUCH ASSURANCES.

7. MEDIATION EFFORTS. MOOSE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE US WAS PLEASED WITH THE PROGRESS THAT HAD BEEN MADE WITH CERTAIN REBEL LEADERS IN KHARTOUM AND THAT WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING CHADIAN INITIATIVES AT MEDIATION. TOURA GABA SAID THAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE BUT EMPHASIZED THE ENORMOUS DIFFICULTY IN NEGOTIATING WITH THE SPLINTERED REBEL MOVEMENT. WHILE SOME AGREEMENTS HAD BEEN STRUCK, THE GOUKOUNI FACTION WAS RECALCITRANT AND HAD REFUSED ALL OPPORTUNITIES TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT. IF GOUKOUNI WOULD AGREE TO A CEASEFIRE, TOURA GABA SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD TRAVEL ANYWHERE FOR TALKS.

8. NIAMEY CONFERENCE. WHEN MOOSE NOTED CHAD'S FAILURE TO ATTEND THE RECENT NIAMEY MEETING WITH LIBYAN FON MIN, TOURA GABA SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED THAT SUCH MEETING WOULD HAVE BEEN A "DIALOGUE OF DEAF" IN LIGHT OF LIBYAN PARTICIPATION IN THE CURRENT REBEL OFFENSIVE. HE SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY SAW NO CHANGE OF LIBYAN ATTITUDES OR SIGN OF WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE.

9. NORTHERN AUTONOMY. WHILE CONSIDERABLE SOCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM IS POSSIBLE IN CHAD, TOURA GABA SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT AGREE TO AUTONOMY FOR ANY REGION. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT ONE MAJOR REFORM WOULD BE TO END THE SPECIAL "MIXED ADMINISTRATION" OF CIVILIAN AND MILITARY IN THE NORTH. BECAUSE OF THE SECURITY SITUATION, PREFECTS AND SUB-PREFECTS IN THE NORTH WERE MILITARY OFFICERS WITH CIVILIAN DEPUTIES. HE SAID THAT A FUTURE CIVILIAN ADMINISTRATION WOULD CONTAIN A MIXTURE OF NORTHERNERS AND SOUTHERNERS.

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10. UN SECURITY COUNCIL. THE AMBASSADOR CONFIRMED THAT CHAD HAD AGREED TO POSTPONE UNSC CONSIDERATION OF ITS COMPLAINT AGAINST LIBYA, BECAUSE OF PRESSURE FROM THE AFRICAN MEMBERS. PRESIDENT NUMAYRI OF SUDAN HAD BEGUN A NEW MEDIATION EFFORT BETWEEN LIBYA AND CHAD, AND THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT HAD DECLARED A CEASEFIRE FEBRUARY 12. TOURA GABA SAID CHAD WOULD NOT GO TO THE UNSC IF NUMAYRI COULD CONVINCE LIBYA TO STOP ITS SUPPORT OF THE REBELS AND IF THE CEASEFIRE WERE RESPECTED, HOWEVER, TOURA GABA EXPRESSED LITTLE HOPE FOR SUCCESS HERE.

11. MOOSE SAID THAT USUN WOULD SUPPORT CHAD IN ITS REQUEST FOR A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING AND PROMISED TO BRING PRESIDENT MALLOUM'S FEBRUARY 8 REMARKS ON THE NEED FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SECRETARY. WHILE HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ON THE CHANCES OF PROVIDING MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD, MOOSE SAID THAT US STRONGLY SUPPORTED CHADIAN NEGOTIATION EFFORTS AND OFFERED TO CONSIDER ANY SPECIFIC REQUESTS FROM CHAD REGARDING THE NEGOTIATIONS. VANCE

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